



## MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

**Description of proposal:** Partial cut harvest of 2,719 MBF of State Timber and 42.01 stations of road construction, 167.70 stations of road reconstruction and 40.96 stations of abandonment on Red Saddle South Forest Health Timber Sale, Application No. 30-073591 and Forest Practice Application No. 2702553.

**Description of mitigation:** The overall objective for the proposal is to improve the health of the stand(s) by reducing stocking levels and leaving larger trees for structure, diversity, and wildlife habitat. Harvest on both units will focus on reducing stocking levels while removing those trees infested with spruce budworm, dwarf mistletoe and root rot. This will enhance the return of the forest to a more historic stocking and species composition structure that will promote sustainable healthy habitat. (Upon completion of harvest both units will be well-stocked stands and leave tree preference is ponderosa pine, western larch, lodgepole pine and healthy Douglas-fir.) Unit #1 is bounded on the north by an RMZ on the Type 3, South Fork Ahtanum Creek. This is a 100+ foot no-entry buffer. Cables will be suspended over this RMZ, but no yarding will occur within the RMZ. In Unit #2 there are five unnamed Type 4 streams. Of the Type 4 streams, four are a complex of streams that all come together and form a Type A wetland that is approximately 40 acres in size. These Type 4 streams have been protected with a 50' no-entry buffer on each side and the Type A wetland has an average buffer of 100' with the minimum being 75'. In addition, three of these Type 4 streams have upper reaches that are Type 5 streams that have been protected with 30' Equipment Limitation Zones. Trees designated to be felled inside these ELZ's will be directionally felled and skidded away from the stream channel. There is also another Type 4 stream on the east end of this Unit that also has an upper reach Type 5 stream. This entire stream (T4/T5) has been protected with a 50' no-entry buffer on each side. One Type 3 stream, the outlet of the forested wetland, has been protected with a 100 + ' no-entry buffer on both sides of the stream channel. A 100' no entry RMZ has been established between the A-1000 road (south boundary of the unit) and the Type 3, South Fork Ahtanum Creek. In addition we will reduce site impacts associated with roads by minimizing amount of road construction and reconstruction and utilizing existing skid trails and landings.

**Proponent:** State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** parts of Section 2 and 4, Township 11 North, Range 14 East, W.M., Yakima County, approximately 31 miles west of Yakima, WA located off of the A-1500 and A-1000 roads.

**Lead agency:** State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

[ ] There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

[X] This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from 2-3-03. Comments must be submitted by 2-18-03.

**Responsible official:** WILLIAM O. BOYUM

**Position/title:** Region Manager    **Phone:** (509) 925-8510    **Address:** 713 Bowers Road, Ellensburg WA 98926

**Date** Jan 28, 03  
**There is no agency SEPA appeal.**

**Signature** William O. Boyum    11/09/00